

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 15, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 14, 2003 (0045))

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

- *East Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*
 - *Boles/Rattlesnake Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 12,800 acres, 10% contained, 15-20 miles NE of Missoula.*
 - *Dirty Ike – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) - 1,200 acres, 30% contained, 3 miles NE of Clinton.*
 - *Cooney Ridge Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) - 7,000 acres, 5 % contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
 - *Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) - 4,500 acres, 0% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis.*
 - *Twin Lakes – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) - 93 acres, 80% contained, 4 miles S of Georgetown Lake.*
 - *Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt) has been ordered, 500 acres, 55% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula.*
- *93 West Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires:*
 - *Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) - 6,500 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
 - *Black Mountain 2 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) – 703 acres, 8% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula.*
 - *Cherry Creek – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 3,800 acres, 10% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls, MT.*
 - *North Howard Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 2,143 acres, 30% contained, 16 miles W of Missoula.*
- *Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*
 - *Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) - 7,700 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
 - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) - 38,751 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*

- *Wedge Canyon – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Hart) – 36,165 acres, 70% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka.*
- *Trapper Creek Complex – Complex is 22,551 acres, 65% contained located 45 miles NE of Kalispell.*
- *Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 19,000 acre fire is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
- *Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 1,124 acres, 5% contained, 8 miles S of Livingston.*
- *Winslow – 1,500 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview. Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) has been ordered.*
- *East – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 3,200 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, near Yellowstone National Park.*
- *Moon Creek – 3,187 acres, 100% contained, 15 miles SW of Miles City.*
- *Swain – 1,500 acres, 50% contained, 10 miles SE of Broadus.*
- *Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) will assume command 8/15, 3,000 acres, 0% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin.*
- *Hobble – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) - 34,000 acres, 95% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff.*
- *Lincoln Complex – 700 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln. Type 1 Incident Management Team has been ordered.*
- *Buffalo Creek – 200 acres, 50% contained, 25 miles S of Broadus.*
- *Little Hawk – 3,000 acres, 10% contained, 10 miles N of Busby.*
- *Sheep Camp – 150 acres, 0% contained, 28 miles N of Townsend.*
- *Barefoot Creek – 175 acres, 66 miles SW of Missoula.*
- *Big Creek – 106 acres, 22 miles SW of Hamilton.*
- *Harrington Ridge – 100 acres, 65 miles SW of Darby.*
- *Graveyard – 1,800 acres, 100% contained, 25 miles SW of Miles City.*
- *Rough Creek – 1,000 acres, 100% contained, 6 miles W of Broadus.*
- *Wrangler – 600 acres, 100% controlled, 6 miles W of Broadus.*

B. Initial Attack *Moderate initial attack: 42 new fires 18,743 acres total in Northern Rockies*

C. State Forecast For Montana

*State Forecast For Montana
National Weather Service Great Falls Mt
500 Am MT Fri Aug 15 2003*

RED FLAG WARNINGS/FIRE WEATHER WATCHES:

RED FLAG WARNING for dry and wet thunderstorms this afternoon and tonight for Deerlodge and Beaverhead districts or zones 110 and 111.

FIRE WEATHER WATCH for dry and wet thunderstorms late this afternoon and tonight remainder of Western Montana.

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

...Hot Again Today...

Today - Partly Cloudy. Areas Of Smoke. Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms Developing By Late Afternoon. Highs 91 To 101.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms. Lows 52 To 62.

Saturday - Partly Cloudy. Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs 85 To 95.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today - Continued Hot. Mostly Sunny. Areas Of Smoke. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms South In The Afternoon. Highs In The 90s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Areas Of Smoke. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms...Mainly West. Lows In The Mid 50s To Mid 60s.

Saturday - Continued Hot. Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms West. Highs In The Upper 80s To Upper 90s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today - Continued Hot. Partly Cloudy. Areas Of Smoke. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms In The Afternoon. Highs In The Mid 80s To Mid 90s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Areas Of Smoke. Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms And In The Evening Then Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms After Midnight. Lows In The Mid To Upper 50s.

Saturday - Continued Hot. Partly Cloudy. Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs In The Lower 80s To Lower 90s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

Today - Continued Hot. Partly Cloudy With A Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms Southwest. Mostly Sunny Elsewhere. Highs 100 To 105...80s Mountains.

Tonight - Mostly Clear. Lows In The 60s To Lower 70s...50s And 60s Mountains.

Saturday - Continued Hot. Partly Cloudy West. Mostly Sunny East. Slight Chance Of Thunderstorms Southwest. Highs 95 To 105...80s Mountains.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

State and National Guard Assistance:

Current National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL

3 UH-160S	7 HMMVs	16 Soldiers to NW Area Cmd
	3 HEMTTs	13 Soldiers to SW Area Cmd
	1 1 ¼ TRAILER	16 Soldiers to Central MT
	4 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	23 Soldiers as Overhead Spt
	1 CONTACT TRUCK	
3 Aircraft Modules Assigned	16 HVY Equipment Assigned	68 Solders Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
Missoula Area Command
Sweetgrass County (Hobble Fire)

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures/closures_evacuations_81303_2100.pdf